

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 USIE-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 AID-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

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O R 281301Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6437

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XF, IS, US

SUBJECT: CABINET DEFERS DECISION ON NEW NEGOTIATING INITIATIVE

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. SUMMARY: ACCORING TO
ISRAELI PRESS, ISRAELI CABINET APRIL 27 VOTED UNANIMOUSLY
TO DEFER DEBATE ON POSSIBILITY OF NEW ISRAELI NEGOTIATING
PROPOSALS UNTL AFTER US MIDEAST POLICY REASSESSMENT IS
COMPLEED AND PREPARATIONS FOR GENEVA CONFERENCE ARE
MORE ADVANCED. CABINET HEARD REPORT FROM ALLON ON HIS
RECENT MEETING WITH SECRETARY. MINISTERS ALSO HELD
LENGTHLY" EXCHANGE OF VIEWS" ON US/ISRAELI RELATIONS AND
IMPLICATION OF RECONVENING GENEVA CONFERENCE. END SUMMARY.

2. FOCUS OF DISCUSSION AT APRIL 27 CABINET MEETING WAS PROPOSAL
RAISED BY INDEPENDENT LIBERAL PARTY MINISTERS KOL AND
HAUSNER THAT SPECIAL MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE BE ESTABLISHED
NOW TO DRAFT ISRAELI PEACE PLAN AND PRESENT IT TO CABINET
WITHIN ONE MONTH. ILP MINISTERS URGED GOI TO TAKE NEW
POLITICAL INITIATIVE WITH DUAL AIM OF AVOIDING WAR AND
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AVOIDING IMPOSED SETTLEMENT, AND TO PRESENT SUCH PROGRAM

IN WASHINGTON IN ORDER TO LINE UP ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT. KOL AND HOUSNER ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SOME MINISTERS, PRESUMABLY MOREHARDLINE RAFI AND NRP MINISTERS, WOULD OPPOSE ILP PROPOSALS FOR MAJOR TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS ON WEST BANK, BUT MAINTAIN THAT THEIR OPPOSITION TO SECTIONS OF PLAN WOULD NOT HAVE TO LEAD TO GOVERNMENT CRISIS.

3. REMAINDER OF CABINET OPPOSED ILP PROPOSAL, SUPPORTING INSTEAD TERSE CONCLUSION THAT " PRIME MINISTER AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER WILL DETERMINE THE DATE OF A POLITICAL DEBATE AND BRING PROPOSALS FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S CONSIDERATION." SEVERAL MINISTERS INCLUDING ALLON REPORTEDLY ARGUED THAT IT WAS PREMATURE FOR GOI TO FORMULATE NEW PROPOSALS BEFORE COMPLETION OF REASSESSMENT. ALLON REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED HIS VIEW THAT NEW ROUND OF ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN NEGOTIATIONS BEFORE GENEVA STILL REMAINED A POSSIBILITY. (ALLON MADE SIMILAR COMMENT TO FRENCH NEWS AGENCY REPORTER BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR FRANCE.) RABIN REPORTEDLY TOLD MINISTERS THAT ANY PROGRAM WHICH ISRAEL WOULD BRING TO GENEVA WOULD BE REJECTED THERE, EVEN MAPAM'S PEACE PROGRAM AND EXPRESSED HIS OPPOSITION TO ANY GOI DECISION INVOLVING DRAWING OF MAPS ON GROUNDS THAT THIS WOULD BE INVITATION FOR INTERNATIONAL PRESSURES FOR FURTHER CONCESSIONS. RABIN REPORTEDLY ADDED THAT, IN SUCH A CASE, GENEVA CONFERENCE WOULD NOT DISCUSS SUBSTANCE OF PEACE, BUT ONLY EXTEND OF ISRAELI WITHDRAWALS. NRP MINISTER RAPHAEL ALSO CHARACTERIZED ILP PROPOSAL AS UNNECESSARY. ON RADIO INTERVIEW LAST NIGHT, RAPHAEL SPELLED OUT HIS OBJECTION TO NEW ISRAELI INITIATIVES AT THIS TIME AS BEING PERCEIVED ABROAD AS CAPITULATION TO US PRESSURE.

4. HAARETZ AND DAVAR EDITORIALS TODAY URGED GOI TO DECIDE IN NEAR FUTURE ON NEW POLITICAL INITIATIVE FOR RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATING PROCESS. HAARETZ, NOTING THAT ALLON AND KISSINGER AGREED TO COORDINATE POSITIONS, CONCLUDES THAT " IT IS NECESSARY THAT THE GOVERNMENT FORMULATE ITS POSITION...IT WOULD BE BETTER NOT TO DELAY THE DEBATE MUCH AFTER ALLON'S RETURN FROM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FRANCE." DAVAR COMMENTS EDITORIALY THAT " A RIFT WITH WASHINGTON IS THE GREATEST POLITICAL DANGER FOR ISRAEL. MOST PEOPLE ARE AGAINST THE STATUS QUO WHICH CAN ONLY BRING ABOUT A WAR...THE GOVERNMENT MUST DARE AND TAKE THE INITIATIVE, PERHAPS EVEN BY MAKING A UNILATERAL GESTURE." END UNCLASSIFIED.

5. BEGIN LOU. OUTCOME OF CABINET MEETING REINFORCES OUR

VIEW THAT IT WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR RABIN TO COME UP WITH
NEW POLITICAL INITIATIVE FOR RENEWAL OF NEGOTIATIONS. DIFFERENCES
BETWEEN INDEPENDENT LIBERALS AND MAPAM ON ONE HAND AND
NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY/RAFI ON OTHER RE DESIRABILITY OF
FORMULATING OVERALL PEACE INITIATIVE AS WELL AS ABOUT
SUBSTANTIVE ELEMENTS OF ISRAEL NEGOTIATING POSITION UNDERSCORE
FRAGILITY OF COALITION CONSENSUS. ANY EFFORT TO FORMULATE
FAR-REACHING NEW PROPOSALS IS CERTAIN TO GENERATE INTENSE
DOMESTIC CONTROVERSY, STARTING WITH SHOWDOWN WITHIN
CABINET WHICH RABIN CLEARLY HOPES TO AVOID. END LIMITED
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VELIOTES

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